



The A to Z from Zion

A Publication of Zion Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan

October 2019

Special Points of Interest

- **Tuesday, October 1**
Red Letter Challenge Begins
- **Saturday October 5**
LWML Fall Retreat
Grace Lutheran Church – Coopersville
9:00am

West Michigan Lutheran Chorale Concert
4:00pm - Zion
- **Sunday, October 6**
Red Letter Challenge - Being
LWML Sunday
8:30 & 11:00am
- **October 13**
Red Letter Challenge - Forgiving
- **Monday, October 14**
Outreach Meeting – 7:00pm
- **Tuesday, October 15**
Elders – 6:00pm
Council – 7:30pm
- **Thursday, October 17**
Zion & Friends Trip to Cran Hill
8:30a
- **Sunday, October 20**
Red Letter Challenge - Serving
- **Saturday, October 26**
Pumpkins with Purpose – 2:00-3:30pm
- **Sunday, October 27**
Red Letter Challenge - Giving



**Reformation Sunday
October 27, 2019**

Sabbatical Opportunity

1) Overview

I know it might surprise you to think that I have been at Zion 10 years already. It surprises me! My family and I are so thankful to be a part of this church and this community. We feel so encouraged, supported, and blessed. We are honored to worship every Sunday with you and follow Jesus together. And I am deeply humbled that the leadership of Zion would see the need to care for my rest and renewal as a pastor, husband, father. As a result of numerous conversations, Zion has granted me a Sabbatical next Summer in order to rest in God, recharge my spiritual and emotional batteries, further education, and spend time with family. Furthermore, Zion has been awarded a generous grant to make this possible. There are a lot of exciting things say about this, and you will get a lot more information in the coming months, but here is a start.

2) God's Word and Sabbath/Sabbatical – What is it?

When God creates his marvelous universe, with all the colorful flowers and unique animals, God spent six days creating and then rested on the seventh. God then commands his people to work six days, but on the seventh, rest from your work and rest in God's presence. Genesis 2:3 says, "So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation." As God creates rhythms of life in years, seasons, months, he ordered that 1/7th of our time we would not work but rest and worship. And when we pause on the seventh day and rest in God, we are entrusting all the other days into God's gracious care.

In Leviticus 25:2-4 God also commanded the Israelites to let the ground rest on the seventh year. "...the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. 3 For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, 4 but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land... You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard."

God hardwires into his creation and his people the need to recharge and rest in Him. We know this. We get worn down by busy schedules, demands, and difficult things we face. This is not to complain at all about the pastoral calling, but it comes with some heavy emotional and spiritual lifting that can make the heart tired. Praying with someone before they take their final earthly breaths, ministering to the family, and then conducting a funeral service is truly an honor, but it can be heavy. Dying, death, critical counseling, dealing with conflict, preaching God's Word – the particulars of pastoral ministry – are such that an extended sabbatical break brings much needed rest, renewal, rejuvenation, and renewed energy for ministry. I am very thankful you see the need for my spiritual renewal, rest in God, and recharging. I am very thankful that you are willing to invest in me and my family in this way.

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A Sabbatical is not a long vacation. A Sabbatical is a biblically rooted intentional time away from your regular work routine (usually three months) for rest, renewal, further education both for a pastor and a congregation. Many churches have found that they were equally blessed while their pastor was on sabbatical.

3) The Details

Zion has been awarded a grant of \$40,000 that will pay for the activities I will engage in, as well as the pastoral ministry while I am away. The Sabbatical Send-Off Sunday will be May 3, and I will return August 9, 2020. Pastor Dieter Haupt and Pastor Tom Hackett will faithfully carry out pastoral ministry at Zion during this time.

As a part of the grant application process, the theme chosen for the Sabbatical was “Returning to First Loves.” In Revelation 2 the Church at Ephesus is described as faithful and enduring, but they are exhorted to “return to their first love,” that is, a simple heartfelt love for their Savior, Jesus, that compelled them to do ministry. Following that theme, I will spend time in “first loves” in my life, that is, things that give me joy but I have not been able to spend a lot of time within recent years.

Beginning in mid-May, I will travel to Israel to study at Jerusalem University College. I am enrolled in their three week course that travels to different biblical sites every day. Amie and I will also spend restful time together as a family and revisit some places and friends that are dear to us but we have not seen in many years. Also, I will spend some time playing music, something I enjoy but do not spend much time on now. Over the coming months I'll unpack more of the details of this, but I want to give you an overview.

4) Wrap-up

This is meant to be a blessing to not just me and my family, but the whole church. I am honored that you would value investing in me and caring for my soul. I look forward to being recharged and renewed to serve God together with you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Ryan

P.S. We begin the Red Letter Challenge in worship September 29, and with the daily devotion journals on October 1. We will study the words of Jesus, the “the red letters,” as many bibles print them. You can still sign up for a small group as well as pick up a journal in the Fellowship Hall. I’m excited to have our Savior’s words guide and mold us for 40 days this fall. The themes we’ll study and learn are: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. May the Holy Spirit continually make us more devoted followers of our crucified and risen Savior.

Scott Jung

Family Life and Discipleship Director



Supporting



Pumpkins with Purpose

Families, join us on Saturday, October 26 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. for *Pumpkins with Purpose*. This fall event will offer several stations of activities including pumpkin carving/decorating, games, crafts, and trick-or-treating through the halls of the church. Bring a pumpkin and wear a costume! We will also assemble treat bags for the kids at Escape Ministries. Here's how you can help:

- Donate a bag of assorted candy to be used for Escape Ministry treat bags and Zion trick-or-treating.
- Lead one of the stations (materials will be provided).

Red Letter Challenge

Are you up for the challenge? In October, we will be looking at the words of Jesus (the red letters in some Bibles) through sermons, a 40-day devotion book, and small groups. If you haven't done so already, pick up your FREE book in the Fellowship hall (1 per household, \$20 for additional copy). Also, sign up for one of the 4-week small groups that will help you get to know your Zion friends and get more out of the Red Letter Challenge. Contact Scott Jung (scott@zionholland.org) for details.

Divine Drama Classes

Divine Drama Classes are on break after October 2nd. Monday evening classes resume November 4th and Wednesday morning classes resume November 6th.

We continue to invite all to come and join in celebration.



Sundays at 11:30 am

Comcast - Channel 21
DirecTV - Channel 377
DISH Network - Channel 54
Antenna - Digital Channels 54.1, 54.2 & 54.3
Charter Channel 2

Financial Update through August

Total Giving	\$316,209
Total Expenses	327,895
Needed Weekly for Ongoing Ministry	9,912

Thank you for your continued generosity to God's work here at Zion.

Continue to pray for our missionaries in Africa with Lutheran Bible Translators, **Rev. Chuck & Karen Tessaro**. Prayers of thanksgiving for “Scripture Listening Groups” that allow people to regularly hear God’s word. Be sure to read their newsletter on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Address for Correspondence

Chuck & Karen Tessaro
 Lutheran Church of Nigeria
 P.O. Box 495, Jos, Plateau State
 Nigeria, West Africa

Send Contributions to:

Lutheran Bible Translators
P.O. Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020

Birthdays

Karen - January 6
Chuck - October 30
Wedding Anniversary - February 27

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Member of the Lakeshore Zone LWML

The Mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

LWML Fall Retreat

Ladies! You are invited to a LWML Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, Coopersville. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Our retreat theme is Joy in the Journey, Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." The cost including lunch is \$25 each; girls ages 10-18 are FREE when accompanied by an adult. See the flyer in the fellowship hall for more information.

Wednesday Night Women's Study – We will not meet for the month of October so we can all participate in the Red Letter Bible Challenge. We will start up again in November, but we won't meet during Advent.

Save your pop can tabs and help change the world! Please continue to save pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Turn them in to Pat Albrecht's mailbox in the hallway or the "Hunger Hamper" in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for supporting this effort! - **Pat Albrecht**

We continue to collect non-perishable food, paper and hygiene products for those less fortunate. Place in the food hamper by the missions table in the fellowship hall. We also continue to collect used eyeglasses. Please place them in the box marked “Used Eyeglasses,” located in the Fellowship Hall by the ZLCW bulletin board.

Dear Zion Family ... Please continue to save whole Spartan Stores receipts to support Reason 2 Hope. To date, \$40,000 worth has been collected. \$150,000 worth is needed for the mission to receive \$1,000. Please put these in **Cristina Fuglseth's** mailbox in the hallway.

THE LETTER

Have you ever longed for a letter from a friend or a loved one? I know that everyone sends texts, an e-mail, Instagram, or leaves a voice mail these days. But I like to have a handwritten card or letter. I can re-read the letter over, and over again. I feel like there is a certain connection with the person who sent it when I get a handwritten note. To me, a handwritten letter is special and not the same as someone sending me an e-mail. I know, when I write a card or a note to someone, I take the time to think about what I'm going to write. I may choose a quote or a Bible passage to encourage the recipient of that letter. The time involved in writing a letter not only nurtures my heart, but I also hope it blesses someone else.

Sometimes when I go out to the mailbox, I'm disappointed that there is not a personal letter and all the mail that day consists of bills or advertisements. The other day when I went out to the mailbox and there wasn't a personal card or letter, I heard God say to me, "Don't put your hope in man. Did you forget I already gave you the largest love LETTER you will ever receive? Open my LETTER and you will find words that encourage, comfort, strengthen, and give you hope. That LETTER will help you when you feel lonely, anxious, down, and even when you are confused and not sure which way to go. But most of all, you will find in my LETTER that words of LOVE and FORGIVENESS are spoken throughout the pages."

Dear God,

Thank you for your love LETTER. You spent a lot of time writing that letter and to decide what you wanted us to know (and not know). I'm grateful that I can enjoy reading your letter over and over, and over again. There is always something new I can learn each time I open your LETTER as you reveal more of yourself to me. Thank You God for the greatest love LETTER ever. Help me to share your LETTER with another person. Amen.

Your ZLCW Board

Jan Gibson, President, **Helen Podgorski**, Treasurer, **Lindy Hebel**, Secretary,
Char Norris, Christian Growth/Missions, **Beth Foreman**, Publicity, **Nancy Fody**, LWML Liaison,
Kathe Freeman, Funeral Luncheons, **Kay Ann Deubner**, Crafts & Cards Ministry



Anniversaries

October 1	Deanna Coster Eileen Johr Paul Pohanka
October 5	Mike Capizzi Marion Dunlap
October 7	Evan Mudd
October 8	Andy Knowlton
October 9	Tim Gort
October 12	Gary Keller Leonard Tabaka
October 15	Colleen Berning Jackie DeVries Guy Gasper Mark Peterson Jr.
October 16	Cassidy Bowers Ann Mason
October 19	Daryle Lessard Rosemary VandeVusse
October 20	Bev Lundie
October 24	Jason Baker Dean Ihle
October 26	Viola Ihle Jay Danneffel Daphne Maddox Samuel Maddox Shelley Pohanka James Vining Samuel Winningham
October 30	Ruth Hahn

October 4	Dave & Shelley Pohanka
October 5	Mike & Brandelyn Otto
October 8	Mike & Paula Capizzi
	Adam & Melissa Pringle
October 10	Tom & Sharon Hackett
October 12	Bob & Beth Much
October 16	John & Sheri Gervais
October 17	Bob & Nancy VanArk
October 18	Todd & Michele Zeilinger
October 24	Dale & Tammi Grossman
October 30	Scott & Carrie Jung

If we missed your name or have wrong information, we must be missing information in our computer. Please contact the church office with your birth date or anniversary date. Thank you!

Life Quotes from Lutherans for Life

“No matter how hopeless and weak you think you are, you’ve been provided with all the grace you need to make it to the end. Future grace always carries with it the promise of present grace. God will provide everything you need until you see Him face to face (2 Peter 1:3).” *Paul David Tripp, pastor, author and conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*
www.lutheransforlife.org

WORSHIP
ASSISTANTS
For October - 8:30 AM

Elders

Eric Poindexter & Steve Wessels

Ushers

Reed & Cindy Sneller

Chris & Lindy Hebel

Transportation

Andy Knowlton (October 6)

Lyle Morris (October 13)

Reed Sneller (October 20)

Paul Berning (October 27)

Readers

Cristina Fuglseth (October 6)

Mary Lou Rohlck (October 13)

Jim McIlvain (October 20)

Bruce Kenat (October 27)

Altar Duty

TBA

“Pew Police”

Sharon Larkin (Week of October 6)

Myrna Voy (Week of October 13)

Sheri Gervais (Week of October 20)

Cindy Sneller (Week of October 27)

Bagels

TBA

(Please notify the church office of any changes - Thank you!)

2019

Age Group	Number of Respondents
18-24	400
25-34	350
35-44	300
45-54	250
55-64	200
65-74	150
75+	50



Facility Care: Junior Fuglseth

